WE CLAIM:

1. A method for temporarily interrupting a computer system capable of running an operating system and at least one application software package comprising the steps of

(a) generating a request for temporary interruption of the computer system by an identifying signal;

(b) ending software and/or software and hardware drivers which do not have idle state support;

(c) placing software and/or software and hardware drivers which have idle state support into the idle state;

(d) saving data describing the status of the computer system on a non-volatile storage device;

(e) preparing the non-volatile storage device for the running-up of the computer system;

(f) putting the computer system into the idle state for the temporary interruption;

(g) generating a request to discontinue the temporary interruption by means of an identifying signal after any desired time period;

(h) loading the saved status data;

(i) activating the hardware and software drivers;

(j) activating the application software and/or at least one software service; and

(k) starting at least one software application and/or at least one software service for which there is no idle state support.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein a software package for automation is started as the application software.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein after a run-up, a personal-computer (PC)-based control is run on the computer system.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is carried out on at least one machine for controlling said machine.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising carrying out a computer system check before the system run-up.